

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction of the claims into fourteen groups. The Applicant takes this opportunity to thank the Examiner for the teleconference with the undersigned on December 4, 1995, during which the Restriction Requirement was discussed. Pursuant to that teleconference, Applicants submit herewith a new set of claims rendering the outstanding Restriction Requirement moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and an issuance of a new Restriction Requirement based on new Claims 63-79.

Applicants propose that the invention is divided into nine groups, as opposed to the fourteen groups proposed by the Examiner. Applicants are canceling all of the pending claims and are adding seventeen claims that correspond to the subject matter originally claimed and the groups of the Restriction Requirement.

Claims 63 and 64, corresponding to the group one of the proposed restriction requirement, are drawn to a method of treating a condition involving cytokine-mediated toxicity by modulating MIF gene expression, as covered by Group III of the Examiner's Restriction Requirement.

Claims 65, 66 and 67, corresponding to the second group of the proposed restriction requirement, are drawn to a method of treating cytokine-mediated toxicity by administering an agent capable of modulating the biological activity of the MIF gene product, including anti-MIF antibodies, and assays to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment, as covered by Groups I, IX and XIV.

Claims 68 and 69, corresponding to the third group of the proposed restriction requirement, are drawn to a method of treating a condition involving cytokine-mediated toxicity by modulating MIF receptor gene expression, as covered by Group IV.

Claims 70, 71 and 72, corresponding to the fourth group of the proposed restriction requirement, are drawn to the MIF receptor gene product and agents which modulate the biological activity of the MIF receptor gene product as a method of treating a condition involving cytokine-mediated toxicity, as covered by Groups II and XI.

Claims 73, 74 and 75, corresponding to the fifth group of the proposed restriction requirement, are drawn to a method of identifying compounds that inhibit cellular release of MIF and the use of these compounds to treat conditions involving cytokine-mediated toxicity, as covered by Groups V and X.

Claim 76, corresponding to the sixth group of the proposed restriction requirement, is drawn to a method of enhancing the anti-inflammatory activity of a therapeutic steroid, or reducing its toxic side effects, as covered by Groups VII and VIII.

Claim 77, corresponding to the seventh group, is drawn to a method of treating a condition involving cytokine-mediated toxicity comprising the use of agents which modulate the biological activity of MIF or its receptor in combination with other therapies, as covered by Group IV.

Claim 78, corresponding to the eighth group, is drawn to a cell line capable of expressing an exogenous MIF or MIF receptor coding sequence, as covered by Group XII.

Claim 79, corresponding to the ninth group, is drawn to transgenic animals in which the expression of MIF or its receptor is modified, as covered by Group XIII.

If required, Applicants will request a new Restriction Requirement, at which point a set of dependent claims which define the invention will be added.

Applicants would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that eight divisional applications of the above-captioned application have been filed.

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
08/462,350	June 5, 1995
08/470,901	June 6, 1995
08/479,090	June 6, 1995
08/479,091	June 6, 1995
08/471,705	June 6, 1995
08/479,092	June 6, 1995
08/471,546	June 6, 1995
08/471,586	June 6, 1995

Preliminary amendments in each of the pending divisional applications will be filed, canceling all of the pending claims and replacing them with the identical set of claims presented herein. Applicants further request that the same Restriction Requirement be issued in each of the pending divisional applications.

Entry of the foregoing remarks and reconsideration of the  
Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 14, 1996

  
Laura A. Coruzzi 30,742  
(Reg. No.)

PENNIE & EDMONDS  
1155 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036-2711  
(212) 790-9090

Enclosure